

*Gelechia scotinella* Herrich-Schaffer, 1854  
(Lep.: Gelechiidae) in Herts.

By E. S. BRADFORD\*

Recently, on going through a small box of micros put by some time ago, I came across too slightly worn Gelechid moths, that on dissection proved to be referable to this species. They were taken in or near my previous residence in Borehamwood, Herts., on 9th July, 1966 (♀) and 16th August, 1969 (♂). The genitalia of these two are here figured. I also possess three other specimens of *G. scotinella* taken by me in the same locality, dated 11th August, 1969 (♂) and 18th August, 1971 (2).

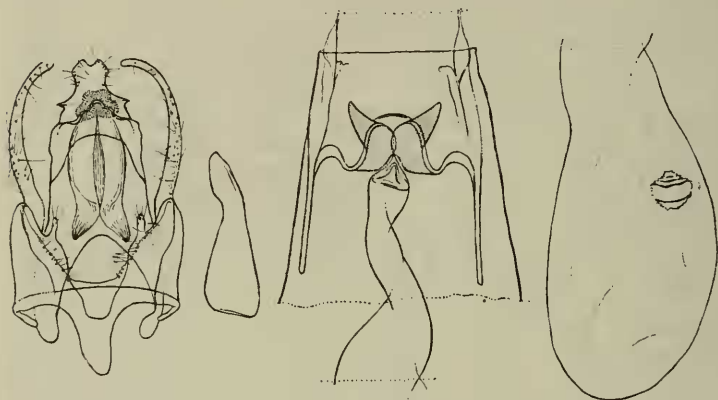


Fig. 1. *Gelechia scotinella*. From left: (a) and (b) male genitalia, (c) and (d), female genitalia.

According to Meyrick (1928, *Revised Handbook Br. Lep.*, 626), the larva of *scotinella* feeds in April in spun flowers of blackthorn, which information is repeated in Ford (1949, *Guide to Smaller British Lepidoptera*, 99). Blackthorn forms an unclipped hedge along the two gardens where the moths were taken, and it is also not an uncommon shrub in the neighbourhood.

Only the male genitalia are figured in Pierce and Metcalf (1935, *The Genitalia of the Tineid Families of the Lepidoptera of the British Islands*, plate vi), so it seems the moth was not easy to come by when that work was in preparation. Meyrick (*loc. cit.*) gives it as local and uncommon. I do not know of any recent captures of the species other than those which I have given.

\* 6 Maple Court, Drayton Road, Borehamwood, Herts.